LESSON PLAN

Congress and the People

GRADES	TIME	READING LEVEL
9+	50 min	3

Lesson flow



5 min

Opening Hook

Begin with a discussion about what hope means to students. Ask them to share a time when they felt hopeful despite challenging circumstances.

15–20 min

Story Exploration

Read the story "Congress and the People" aloud to the class. Pause at key moments to allow for reactions and initial thoughts.

15 min

Analysis Exercises

Break students into small groups to discuss the key characters and their motivations. Have them identify examples of despair and hope within the text. Groups will share their findings with the class.

10 min

Application/Reflection

Ask students to reflect on the moral of the story. They will write a short paragraph on how hope has played a role in their own lives or in history.

5 min

Assessment Strategy

Have students share their reflections with a partner, fostering discussion about the impact of hope in different contexts.

STORY OVERVIEW

- **Title and moral/theme**: Congress and the People; The moral is that even in times of despair and loss, hope remains an invaluable and untouchable source of strength for the people.
- **Plot Summary**: In a time of great despair, the People lament their losses due to successive Congresses that have impoverished them. An Angel, witnessing their sorrow, questions their weeping, prompting the People to reflect on their last remaining treasure: hope. The story culminates with the significant Congress of 1889, hinting at a turning point.
- **Key Characters**:
  - **The People**: Represent the common man and their struggles against oppressive governance.
  - **The Angel**: Symbolizes a source of wisdom and hope, offering comfort and reflection to the People.

LESSON FUNDAMENTALS

- **Learning Objectives**:
  - Students will understand the moral of the story and its relevance to contemporary society.
  - Students will analyze the characters and their significance within the story.
  - Students will discuss the themes of hope and despair and their implications for personal resilience.
  - Students will create their own simple moral stories inspired by "Congress and the People."
- **Discussion Questions**:
  1. What role does hope play in the lives of the People in the story?
  2. How can we relate the struggles of the People to modern-day societal issues?
  3. In what ways can we cultivate hope in challenging times?
- **Required Materials**:
  - Copies of the story "Congress and the People"
  - Whiteboard and markers
  - Paper and writing utensils for students
  - Projector (if necessary, for visual aids)

✓ Original text available on the story page.